



**The Municipal Borough and
Rural District of Wokingham
Joint Public Health Committee**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1972

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Rural District of Wokingham
Joint Public Health Committee**

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THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH AND RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members :

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wokingham Municipal Borough ... | Ald. F. Moles |
| | Ald. E. J. West |
| Wokingham Rural District ... | Mr. R. S. Edwards |
| | Mr. B. E. Evans |
| | Mr. H. M. Flaherty |
| | Mr. W. M. Nodrum |
| | Mr. D. G. Smalley |
| Berkshire County Council ... | Dr. R. Child |
| | Mr. F. J. Pratt |
| Clerk to the Committee ... | Mr. C. G. Cockayne (Honorary) |
| Treasurer to the Committee ... | Mr. E. C. Clarkson (Honorary) |

WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members :

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Ald. E. J. West (Chairman) |
| | Ald. F. Moles, (Vice-Chairman) |
| | The Mayor, Cr. I. R. H. Crail |
| Ald. W. C. A. Smith | Cr. G. H. Cook |
| Cr. F. G. Attridge | Cr. Mrs. M. Fergusson Kelly |
| Cr. R. N. Boyd | Cr. J. W. Tattersall, J.P. |
| Cr. Mrs. M. Busst | Cr. J. Watson |

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

List of Members :

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| | Mr. K. J. Stanley (Chairman) |
| | Mr. B. E. Evans (Vice-Chairman) |
| | Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council (ex-officio) |
| | Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (ex-officio) |
| Mr. G. H. Bayliss | Mr. W. M. Nodrum |
| Mr. J. F. Clifford | Mr. W. E. Read |
| Mr. W. M. Cox | The Dowager Lady Remnant |
| Miss P. M. Dixon | Miss C. M. E. Rhodes |
| Mr. R. S. Edwards | Mr. D. W. Tomlin |
| Mr. H. M. Flaherty | Mr. J. R. Walker |
| Mr. S. H. Jackson | Mr. P. Washington |
| Mr. D. M. Lee | |

THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH AND RURAL DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health : I. W. MACKICHAN,
O.B.E., O.St.J., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.
Secretary to Medical Officer : Mrs. J. Wadmore.

Wokingham Borough Council and Wokingham Rural District Joint Public Health Inspectors' Department :

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Chief Public Health Inspector : | J. B. Bowden, M.A.P.H.I. | Certificate of the Royal S.I. and Joint Board. Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. Appointed to Joint Department June 1972 from Wokingham Borough. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Chief Public Health Inspector : | D. Evans | Certificate of the Royal San- itary Institute as Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of the Royal San- itary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. Retired April 1972 from Wokingham Rural. |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector | E. Huntington | Certificate of the Royal San- itary Institute as Sanitary Inspector. Appointed to Joint Department June 1972 from Wokingham Rural. |
|---|---------------|---|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Public Health Inspectors | P. E. Parbery, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H. | Certificate of the Royal S.I. and Joint Board. Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspection. Appointed to Joint Department June 1972 from Wokingham Borough. |
|-----------------------------|--|---|

| | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| | M. Cottrell | Certificate of the Royal S.I. as Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of the Royal S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. Appointed to Joint Department June 1972 from Wokingham Rural. |
|--|-------------|---|

| | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| | D. T. Lewis | Certificate of the Royal San- itary Institute as Sanitary Inspector. Appointed to Joint Department June 1972 from Wokingham Rural. |
|--|-------------|---|

P. H. Frost

Certificate of the Public
Health Inspectors' Examination Board.

Diploma for Inspectors of
Meat and Other Foods.

Appointed to Joint Department 1972 from Wokingham Rural.

B. Price,
B.Sc.(Hons.)

Diploma Public Health
Inspectors' Examination
Board.

Appointed to Joint Department September 1972.

Clerk :

Miss J. Johnson

Shorthand Typist/Clerk :

Mrs. E. Jarah

Rodent Control Officer :

J. Martin, Wokingham Rural District

Rodent Operators :

A. J. B. Wicks, E. Yates,
Wokingham Rural District

Rodent Control Officer :

H. Scurlock, Wokingham Borough

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WOKINGHAM MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
AND THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
WOKINGHAM JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1972, which includes the statutory information required by the Department of Health and Social Security. It is more than likely this will be the last annual report which I shall present, as on the 1st April, 1974, I and my colleagues in similar positions will be transferred to the National Health Service and what has been referred to as the 'historic and respected office of Medical Officer of Health' will become extinct. At the moment of writing this report no further information has been received as to my future position or duties, nor in fact has any decision been arrived at as to how the necessary advice in such matters as the control of infectious diseases will be made available to local authorities. As I said last year, it is unprofitable to speculate on the pattern of public health in the future, except to express the hope that the participation of locally elected representatives in health matters will remain as close as it has been in the past.

VITAL STATISTICS

The statistics for the year 1972 for both the Borough and Rural District of Wokingham are included, as in previous years, in the respective sections of this report. The estimated mid-year population of the Borough for 1972 was 22,070 and that of the Rural District 84,050, a total of 106,120. This shows an increase of 2,550, which is somewhat less than last year which was, however, somewhat abnormal due to more accurate assessment of the population numbers from census returns. In the Borough the increase was 770; of these, 369 were due to new births and the remaining 401 due to new persons moving into the area. In the Rural District similar figures show an increase of 422 due to movement into the area, while there were 1,358 new births. The natural increase, which is given by subtracting the number of deaths from the number of births in each case, was 201 for the Borough and 767 for the Rural District

The significance of the above figures is that the area as a whole is still experiencing a steady increase in population, which shows no signs of declining and indeed will probably accelerate in the next few years. This is partly due to the numbers of families moving into an area where there is high employment and also because being predominantly young, the birth rate is somewhat higher than in a more representative population. The major impact of this increase is, of course, on the services such as drainage, refuse collection, schools, etc., which causes the Councils concerned considerable difficulty in keeping pace with the increasing needs of the population.

The statistics also show that the birth rate in this area is now declining slightly and is about at the national level when adjusted for the composition of our population, although in actual fact, the crude birth rate for both Borough and Rural District is still about two per thousand above the average for the rest of the country. As I have said on previous occasions, the wider use of the pill and the services of the Family Planning Association may well be a contributory factor to the present declining rate. The percentage of illegitimate births remains at about half the national average and these appear to cause far less of a social problem for both mother and child than in the past.

The death rate in both districts, after adjustment for the population, remains low, that in the Borough being 9 per thousand and the Rural District 9.6 per thousand, compared with the national average of 12.1. These low figures are possibly an indication of the high standard of living in this area and the absence of adverse environmental factors. The numbers of deaths for 1972 were 168 in the Borough and 591 in the Rural District. Cases of lung cancer amounted to 7 in the Borough and 23 in the Rural District, compared with 8 and 25 respectively in the previous year. All but one of these deaths were in men and all but four were in the age group 55 and upwards. The figures below show the number of cases of lung cancer in 1952, 1962 and 1972, the percentage of total deaths attributed to lung cancer and the incidence of deaths from this cause per thousand population. This shows that there has been a marked increase in the number of deaths from cancer of the lung compared with other forms of death, but possibly more important, the incidence in the population as a whole has not shown any marked increase over the figures for ten years ago, and in fact shows a slight decline.

| | <i>No. of cases</i> | <i>% of total deaths</i> | <i>deaths per thousand population</i> |
|------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1952 | 11 | 2.1 | 0.2 |
| 1962 | 23 | 3.2 | 0.3 |
| 1972 | 30 | 3.9 | 0.28 |

The three main causes of death are still cancer, coronary heart disease and cerebro-vascular disease. Each of these account for about one fifth of all deaths each year and together provide over half of the

total. The importance of these figures is to emphasise the need for prevention and prompt treatment of coronary cases. The provision of Intensive Care Units at local hospitals and more efficient transport and treatment of cases in the first few hours after the attack should show results in the future. As regards malignancy, the principal means of attack are reduction of smoking and the early detection of disease by screening methods such as cervical smear tests.

A summary of the figures for the Borough and Rural District respectively are given below : —

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----|-------|
| Borough | Total | 168 | |
| | Malignant with leukaemia | 33 | 20% |
| | Ischaemic heart disease | 35 | 20.8% |
| | Cerebro-vascular disease | 38 | 22.6% |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 63.4% |
| | Road traffic accidents | 4 | |
| | Suicide | — | |
| Rural District | Total | 591 | |
| | Malignant with leukaemia | 118 | 20% |
| | Ischaemic heart disease | 129 | 21.9% |
| | Cerebro-vascular disease | 80 | 13.5% |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 55.4% |
| | Road traffic accidents | 11 | |
| | Suicide | 5 | |

It may also be of interest to compare the population and important statistical rates for the Borough and Rural District at roughly ten-year intervals since 1945, i.e., for the past 27 years. These figures are set out below and show the rapid increase in population during the period and the general improvement in health standards reflected in the death rate and infant mortality rates : —

| | <i>Population</i> | <i>Death Rate</i> | <i>Birth Rate</i> | <i>Infant Mortality Rate</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Borough | | | | |
| 1945 | 8,134 | 17.1 | 17.5 | 42.2 |
| 1952 | 8,643 | 11.5 | 19.3 | 20.1 |
| 1962 | 12,260 | 10.6 | 18.4 | 13.9 |
| 1972 | 22,070 | 9.0 | 14.7 | 5.0 |
| Rural District | | | | |
| 1945 | 32,600 | 11.0 | 15.5 | 27.7 |
| 1952 | 38,460 | 9.7 | 14.5 | 22.8 |
| 1962 | 55,950 | 11.4 | 20.2 | 20.7 |
| 1972 | 84,050 | 9.6 | 14.7 | 9.6 |

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The past year has been a good one from the point of view of communicable diseases. Only 62 cases of measles were notified from the combined districts and it appears that early inoculation against this disease is now proving its worth. Thirty-four cases of scarlet fever were notified; fortunately this is now a comparatively mild form of illness with very few complications and in fact, the borderline between a streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever is now minimal and entirely depends on whether a rash is produced for the diagnosis. Ten cases of food poisoning were notified and 15 were otherwise ascertained. Many of these, as in previous years, were due to salmonellae picked up on holidays abroad. No serious outbreaks involving more than one family occurred, which indicates a reasonable standard of hygiene in local restaurants, canteens and other catering establishments, and emphasises the value of periodic inspections and advice given by departmental staff. Three cases of acute meningitis and one of encephalitis were notified. The latter was associated with the virus of mumps and this complication appears to be more common than in previous years. Fortunately it does not leave any lasting effects and is not usually dangerous. The meningitis cases were again all of viral origin and none of them were of epidemic meningococcal type. Only three cases of dysentery were notified during the year. There has been some speculation in scientific publications to the effect that dysentery occurs in periodic waves and we may now be in such a time of low incidence. Personally I feel that the higher standards of hygiene in schools is largely responsible for the drop in numbers, since normally nearly all the cases are found among children attending infant and primary schools.

AMALGAMATION OF DEPARTMENTS

In April 1972, Mr. D. Evans, Chief Health Inspector of Wokingham Rural District, retired after a lifetime in local government service. His extensive knowledge of the district and experience in all branches of public health will be greatly missed by the local authority. He had interested himself in and organised what is said to be one of the most efficient systems of refuse collection and disposal in the country, and his exceptionally good relations with the staff ensured that the work was carried out efficiently and with very few problems.

With Mr. Evans' retirement the opportunity was taken to amalgamate the public health departments of the Borough and Rural District in anticipation of Local Government Reorganisation in 1974, when the Borough and Rural District unite to form a single local authority. Mr. John Bowden was appointed Chief Health Inspector and Mr. E. Huntington Deputy Chief Health Inspector of the new combined department. Up to date this amalgamation has proceeded very smoothly, in spite of the difficulty in finding suitable accommodation, and the reorganisation of areas has given greater scope for individual officers of the department.

I cannot let this report go by without referring to the death of Ald. Frank Moles on the 1st January, 1973. He was Chairman and Member of the Borough Public Health Committee for many years, in fact during the whole of the period of my service with the authority. His detailed knowledge of conditions in the Borough, and particularly the drainage, made his advice invaluable. His death will be a great loss to the Council and community.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the respective Public Health and Community Services Committees for the support and encouragement shown to myself and colleagues during the year. I would also like to express my gratitude to my fellow Officers in both authorities for their contributions to this report. The co-operation of the Chief Public Health Inspector of the combined authorities and his staff, and the assistance of my secretary, are all much appreciated.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

I. W. MacKICHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

STATISTICS

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,403 |
| Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1973 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,882 |
| Rateable Value, 1st April, 1973 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £3,206,419 |
| Product of a Penny Rate (1973/74) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £30,350 |

| | | <i>Wokingham Borough</i> | | | <i>England and Wales</i> |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| | | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| <i>Estimated mid-year home population</i> | | — | — | 22,070 | 49,028,900 |
| <i>Live births :</i> | Total | 185 | 184 | 369 | 725,405 |
| | Legitimate | 178 | 178 | 356 | 662,907 |
| | Illegitimate | 7 | 6 | 13 | 62,498 |
| <i>Stillbirths :</i> | Total | 3 | 3 | 6 | 8,794 |
| | Legitimate | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7,846 |
| | Illegitimate | — | — | — | 948 |
| <i>Total live and stillbirths :</i> | Total | 188 | 187 | 375 | 734,199 |
| | Legitimate | 181 | 181 | 362 | 670,753 |
| | Illegitimate | 7 | 6 | 13 | 63,446 |
| <i>Deaths of Infants :</i> | | | | | |
| under 1 year of age | Total | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12,494 |
| | Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 | 11,177 |
| | Illegitimate | — | — | — | 1,317 |
| under 4 weeks of age | Total | — | — | — | 8,373 |
| | Legitimate | — | — | — | 7,503 |
| | Illegitimate | — | — | — | 870 |
| under 1 week of age | Total | — | — | — | 7,142 |
| | Legitimate | — | — | — | 6,365 |
| | Illegitimate | — | — | — | 777 |
| <i>Deaths — all ages</i> | | 79 | 89 | 168 | 591,907 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

| | <i>Wokingham Borough</i> | <i>England and Wales</i> |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Live birth rates, etc.:</i> | | |
| Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) | 16.7 | 14.8 |
| Area comparability factor | .88 | 1.00 |
| Local adjusted rate | 14.7 | 14.8 |
| Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate | .99 | 1.00 |
| Illegitimate livebirths as percentage of all live births | 4 | 9 |
| <i>Stillbirth rate :</i> | | |
| Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births | 16 | 12 |
| <i>Infant mortality rates :</i> | | |
| Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births ... | 5 | 17 |
| Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births | 6 | 17 |
| Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births | — | 21 |
| <i>Neonatal mortality rate</i> | | |
| Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births ... | — | 12 |
| <i>Early neonatal mortality rate</i> | | |
| Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births | — | 10 |
| <i>Perinatal mortality rates</i> | | |
| Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births ... | 16 | 22 |
| <i>Death rates, etc. — all ages</i> | | |
| Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) | 7.6 | 12.1 |
| Area comparability factor | 1.18 | 1.00 |
| Local adjusted rate | 9.0 | 12.1 |
| Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate ... | .74 | 1.00 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

| Disease | | | | | 1972 | 1971 | 1970 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 253 | 87 |
| Dysentery | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | — |
| Scarlet fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 | 19 | 14 |
| Whooping cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| Food poisoning | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 1 |
| Infective jaundice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | — |
| Acute meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | — |

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

| Age Group | | | | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | | | | M | F | M | F |
| 55—64 years | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total (All ages) | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS : | | | | | |
| Re-inforcing Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS : | | | | | |
| Primary Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 |
| Re-inforcing Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| MEASLES : | | | | | |
| Primary Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233 |
| RUBELLA : | | | | | |
| Primary Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| POLIOMYELITIS : | | | | | |
| Primary Immunisations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 |
| Re-inforcing Immunisations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93 |
| TUBERCULOSIS : | | | | | |
| B.C.G. Immunisation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 885 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM BOROUGH 1972

| Cause of Death | Total All Ages | Age in years | | | | | | | | | | 75 & over |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| | | 4 wks. & Under 4 Wks. | 1 yr. | 1-4 | 5-14 | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | |
| Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm, intestine | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, prostate | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Leukaemia | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other malignant neoplasms | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Anaemias | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other diseases of nervous system | 3 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hypertensive disease | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Ischaemic heart disease | 35 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 9 | 10 | 13 |
| Other forms of heart disease | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Cerebro-vascular disease | 38 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 7 | 29 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Influenza | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 8 |
| Bronchitis and emphysema | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 |
| Asthma | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 5 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Other diseases of digestive system | 4 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Other diseases, genito-urinary system | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Congenital anomalies | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Symptoms and ill-defined conditions | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 4 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| All other accidents | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| All other external causes | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Total All Causes | 168 | — | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 35 | 87 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PLANNING OFFICER

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE TREATMENT

During the year schemes were prepared for dealing with surface water in the North East and South East sectors of the town. It is in these areas that flooding of residential properties has occurred in the past and has recently been aggravated due to the spread of urban development.

The North East Surface Water Scheme is scheduled to be completed by April 1974 and the scheme for the South East sector should commence in mid 1973.

Investigations were also carried out during the year in connection with the enlargement of the Ashridge Water Reclamation Plant to deal with flows from a population of 40,000. This scheme, however, was subsequently abandoned in favour of diverting a considerable proportion of the Borough's flows to Wargrave in a combined scheme with the Wokingham Rural District Council.

HIGHWAYS

Further traffic management measures were carried out during 1972 in an effort to make better use of highways, this being particularly necessary due to the opening of the A329(M).

Schemes were in course of preparation for private streets, namely Osborne Road, Palmer School Road, Frederick Place and Carey Road. Work on these should commence during 1973.

The introduction of a Bonus Scheme covering the whole of the direct labour force has resulted in a general improvement in the cleansing service, highway repair and street lighting.

SWIMMING POOL AND OPEN SPACES

The Borough's Open Air Swimming Pool, Martin's Pool, has been given a face lift during the year. The cascade and steps have been removed to enable access to the full width of the shallow end. The pool is programmed to be heated during the current year.

Construction has commenced on an Indoor Heated Learner Pool in the grounds and this should be completed by mid 1973.

The introduction of a 9 hole Pitch and Putt Course on the Elms Field has proved extremely popular.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

PLANNING AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT

The increase in the number of plans submitted during the current year has been considerable. Every effort has been made to achieve public participation.

The major issue under consideration during the year however has been the development of some 300 acres at Woosehill.

HOUSING

During the year a scheme was prepared for the development of the Council's Barrett Crescent site for some 36 dwellings. It is hoped that these will be constructed early in 1973.

Work has commenced on modernisation and improvement work at the Sale Memorial Homes with a view to introducing warden controlled facilities.

R. G. GWYNN

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

The Department carried out 65 lettings during the year, as follows :

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| Applicants rehoused off the waiting list | ... | ... | 17 |
| Internal transfers to make best use of accommodation | | | 29 |
| Exchanges | ... | ... | 12 |
| Slum clearance | ... | ... | 5 |
| Staff tenancies | ... | ... | 2 |

There were 212 applications registered on the housing waiting list; of these, 72 were in respect of persons over 60 years of age. Thirty-one applications were registered on the engaged couples list.

The Council carried out the re-wiring of some 87 properties in accordance with the Council's policy of improving electrical installations of properties built approximately 20 years ago. In addition, some 1,300 orders were issued for repairs to Council dwellings. These included many orders for elderly and/or disabled persons where assistance was required inside or outside the properties.

P. HEDGES

Housing Manager

Wokingham Municipal Borough

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

In the early part of the year my colleague Mr. D. Evans, Chief Public Health Inspector to the Wokingham Rural District Council, indicated his intention to retire in April. The Wokingham Borough Council and the Wokingham Rural Council, in joint consultation, decided that the retirement was the opportunity that should be taken to form a Joint Public Health Inspectors' Department in view of Local Government Reorganisation as envisaged in the Bill then before Parliament. The Rural District Council, independent of the joint discussions which followed this decision, were also introducing a Management Structure which fundamentally changed the responsibilities of the Chief Public Health Inspector of that Authority. Lost to that officer was the control of refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing and cesspool emptying. Gained was the responsibility for improvement grants, petroleum storage and various licensing duties hitherto the responsibility of the Clerk's Department. These changes involved a complete reorganisation of the departments of the separate Authorities and absorbed a great deal of time, an example being the transfer of records from the Public Health Department to the Engineer's Department within the Rural District Council administration running currently with the integration of the two separate Public Health Departments. Joint arrangements between the neighbouring Authorities, together with the internal changes mentioned, were understandably slow to receive recognition by the public and one would find it difficult to assess the amount of time spent in getting the message across. I am reminded of the fact that it took the public many years to accept the change in title from Sanitary Inspector to Public Health Inspector.

The Joint Department began to function in June with the exception of Rodent Control which the two Councils agreed should be kept separate at least until Local Government Reorganisation became a reality. The first real task was to collate the information obtained from the Condition of Housing Survey carried out in consequence of the 1969 Housing Act. The standard of the Urban Borough housing in the private sector was somewhat different from that of the Rural housing, but the problem was essentially the same. The statistics produced showed that serious unfitness could be dealt with within a five year period in both areas without in any way getting at the root of the "housing problem" which is essentially a problem of economics. I look forward to the day when local authorities are able to build basic housing units stripped of expensive finishes, but with the possibility of the Council supplying, as need arises (and the tenant's pocket permits), such items as unit beds, cupboards and central heating units designed to fit into the basic units, to ensure the best use of space. This surely can be done without the curtailment of the basic right of choice of decorative finish. The second task of the new Department was a more general one and concerned the proper environmental control of such premises

Wokingham Municipal Borough

as swimming pools, cafes and other food premises. It was essential that this sphere of activity should not be lessened within the period of change and this was achieved by a lesser number of samples being taken for bacteriological examination, thus saving inspectors' time which was more usefully spent in maintaining the frequency of calls.

Added to the other problems to be dealt with during the year was the time spent in discussion on agency arrangements which might be effected under reorganisation, in particular on food composition. The list of difficulties in all the various fields of environmental control found during the year could have been overburdening but for the helpful attitude of the elected members of both Authorities and the co-operative attitude of all the staff concerned.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

WATER SUPPLY

The mains water supply of the area is provided by the Mid Southern Water Company and has remained satisfactory from the bacteriological standards and for its palatability.

The following samples were taken during the year:-

| | |
|---|----|
| Water from mains supply (domestic and commercial) ... | 32 |
| Number satisfactory | 32 |
| Water from Martins Pool (Public Open Air) | 20 |
| Number not satisfactory | 4 |
| Water from Emmbrook School Pool | 14 |
| Water from Palmer School Pool | 12 |
| Water from Dr. Barnardo's School Pool | 6 |

The lesser number of samples taken has been mentioned in the opening remarks. A greater use was made during the year of poolside checks, particularly for chlorine content by comparator, and more time was spent in discussing with school caretakers general matters of pool control. The domestic drinking water supplied within the Borough gave rise to two complaints only and these concerned small quantities of pipe jointing materials finding their way into mains recently repaired, complaints quickly dealt with by the water authority. Of more general concern is the fact that new residential development is supplied with water from new mains extended from existing which are, in some cases, old, and the time must be near when the increased pressures necessary in these older mains necessitate new trunk main laying.

Four properties only in the Borough rely solely on well water and during the year these gave no problems.

One sample of mains water taken during the year gave the following satisfactory analysis :

| Chemical Examination | Parts per Million |
|---|--------------------------|
| Ammonia saline | Absent |
| Ammonia 'Albuminoid' | 0.016 |
| Permanganate value (15 minutes) | 0.14 |
| Permanganate value (4 hours) | 0.32 |
| Nitrogen from nitrites | Absent |
| Nitrogen from nitrates | 2.5 |
| Chlorine | 44 |
| Total Solid Residue | 340 |
| Total Hardness (as calcium carbonate) | 174 |
| Permanent Hardness (as calcium carbonate) | 39 |
| Lead | Absent |
| Iron in solution | Absent |
| Total iron | Absent |
| Zinc | Absent |
| Reaction (pH value) | 7.7 |
| Appearance | Clear and colourless |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

RAINFALL

| Month | | Depth in Millimetres | Greatest Fall in 24 hours Depth in mm. | Date | No. of days with 0.2 mm. or more | No. of days with 1.0 mm. or more |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------------|--|------|---|---|
| January | ... | 55.15 | 8.50 | 10th | 20 | 14 |
| February | ... | 77.60 | 13.10 | 11th | 17 | 13 |
| March | ... | 61.60 | 16.00 | 4th | 14 | 12 |
| April | ... | 47.60 | 9.20 | 28th | 14 | 12 |
| May | ... | 49.50 | 7.90 | 2nd | 21 | 14 |
| June | ... | 26.50 | 4.40 | 18th | 13 | 9 |
| July | ... | 22.50 | 8.00 | 8th | 7 | 6 |
| August | ... | 33.85 | 15.85 | 6th | 6 | 5 |
| September | ... | 28.40 | 17.50 | 8th | 4 | 3 |
| October | ... | 22.60 | 7.70 | 10th | 7 | 6 |
| November | ... | 67.20 | 16.70 | 12th | 13 | 13 |
| December | ... | 73.30 | 15.60 | 5th | 14 | 10 |
| 565.80=22.27 inches | | | | | 150 | 117 |

Average of 72 years :

25.48 inches
165.61 days with 0.20 mm. or more.

The total rainfall was 565.80 mm.=22.27 inches which was 3.21 inches below the average for the past 72 years.

1972 was a comparatively dry year with 150 wet days compared with the average of 165.61 wet days for the past 72 years. The driest year on record was 1921 when 13.83 inches fell. The wettest day in 1972 was Friday, September 8th, when 0.69 inches fell. The wettest day on record was September 16th, 1968, when 2.26 inches fell.

Temperatures :

The lowest temperature recorded was 16°F (−9°C) on the 30th January, 1972.

The lowest on record is 6°F (−14.4°C) on 12th and 22nd January, 1963.

The highest temperature recorded was 70°F (26.5°C) on the 17th July, 1972.

The highest on record is 93°F (33.90C) on the 29th July 1948.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of samples of trade effluent taken | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Number of visits made in connection with trade effluent | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Number of samples of sewage effluent taken | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Number of visits made following problems and complaints associated with main sewers | ... | ... | ... | 94 |

The types of trade effluent being discharged have not altered and are in the main associated with light industries :

- e.g. (a) Electronic and printed circuit design and development.
- (b) Plating work in connection with catering and electrical equipment.
- (c) Manufacturing of food processing machines.
- (d) Construction of bulk containers for dairy food and farm industries.

The firms have entered into trade effluent agreements with this Authority and have satisfactory methods of treatment, so as to ensure neutral effluent discharging into the sewers at all times. The manufacturer of food processing machines did not discharge any effluent during the year.

The following are two typical trade effluent samples :

| | | | Parts per million | Parts per million |
|---|-----|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ammoniacal nitrogen | ... | ... | 7.0 | 5.8 |
| Albuminoid nitrogen | ... | ... | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Nitrogen from nitrites | ... | ... | 0.448 | 0.014 |
| Nitrogen from nitrates | ... | ... | 14.8 | 6.4 |
| Permanganate value (3 minutes) | ... | ... | 25 | 0.8 |
| Permanganate value (4 hours) | ... | ... | 74 | 2.1 |
| Biochemical oxygen demand (5 days at 20°C.) | ... | ... | 32 | Absent |
| Total Solids | ... | ... | 2270 | 447 |
| Solids in suspension — | | | 59 | 6 |
| Total Volatile on ignition | ... | ... | 59 | 6 |
| Combined Chlorine | ... | ... | 130 | 58 |
| Reaction (pH value) | ... | ... | 7.7 | 7.1 |
| Appearance | ... | ... | Pale green and cloudy | Colourless and very slightly cloudy |
| Odour | | | Slightly musty | None |
| Chromium | ... | ... | 25.3 | 0.01 |
| Copper | ... | ... | 0.05 | 0.3 |
| Lead | ... | ... | 0.02 | 0.5 |
| Zinc | ... | ... | 0.17 | 0.02 |
| Cyanide | ... | ... | Absent | Absent |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

It will be noted that one of the two samples quoted showed a high chromium content. Investigations showed that the final neutralising tank had an inadequate through-put of washing water. This fault, when remedied, returned the effluent to within the limits set by the agreement.

A major problem during the year was pollution by oil in the Council's main surface water sewer which discharges into the Emm Brook. Samples taken revealed this to be 35 second fuel oil and not paraffin as first thought. The pollution was intermittent though when present continued for two to three days. To prevent pollution of the watercourse the oil was pumped out and disposed of on to the Council's refuse disposal tip. Investigations were continuing at the end of the year.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Applications for improvement grants | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Applications for conversion grants | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Applications approved, improvements or conversion | ... | | | 49 |
| Applications for standard grants | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Applications approved, standard | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Applications refused | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Total number of visits made in respect of applications, inspections and completions during the year | ... | ... | | 412 |
| Total number of housing units included in applications approved | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Total sum involved in discretionary grants paid out during the year | ... | ... | ... | £31,084.50 |
| Total sum involved in standard grants paid out during the year | ... | ... | ... | £182.50 |

During the year three properties were provided with standard amenities after action under Section 19, Housing Act, 1969, and two preliminary notices were issued. The Condition of Housing survey completed during the year revealed that some 373 properties in the Borough, whilst not falling into the unfitness category, were capable of being improved up to the twelve point standard. These 373 privately owned houses are the source of the present improvement grant applications. Experience during the year showed that the present £1000.00 grant on average represents roughly 40% of the actual cost of a scheme. The same survey showed that 19 houses were unfit and were being currently dealt with.

The Council continued during the year to exercise its discretionary improvement grant powers as widely as possible and the policy of keeping applicants informed as to the details upon which the Council

Wokingham Municipal Borough

arrived at grant figures was continued in cases where the approved expense resulted in a grant figure below the maximum. Only in two cases did applicants question these figures and in both cases the representations made were reported in detail to the Council.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION ORDERS

Four Closing Orders and two Demolition Orders were made during the year and one case reported of a breach in the conditions of an order already made. The latter was dealt with informally. Demolition or Closing Orders made in previous years in respect of thirty-five houses were formally determined. In the main these were cases involving improvement and had been the subject of agreement to proposals in principle by the Council at the time grants were approved.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Two cases of lack of facilities and proper means of escape in case of fire were dealt with during the year and in both cases plans have been submitted, approved and the work is in hand.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Two applications only were received for Qualification Certificates during the year and both were issued following the usual notices, neither of the tenants making any representation to the Council.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year there were fifteen site licences for individual caravans and no real problems arose from these. The only complaints received concerned the use of an unlicensed site but the use of the site was discontinued during the year under threat of legal proceedings.

FOOD

The following foodstuffs were the subject of complaint during the year.

Bread — Mould. Difficult to establish date of purchase. Dealt with informally.

Ham — Contamination. Laboratory examination negative. Dealt with informally.

Milk Bottle — Complaint of glass in bottle. Source of glass not known. Dealt with informally.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

- Take Away Meal — Peculiar taste. Laboratory examination negative. Dealt with informally.
- Lime and Lager — Complaint of price stamping over ring pull. Dealt with informally.
- Bottle of Milk — Dirty bottle. Legal action taken under Section 2.
- Fish Cake — Foreign body. Alleged to be polythene. Not seen. Dealt with informally.
- Baby Food — Mould in tin. Small hole in tin found due to method of case opening. Dealt with informally.
- Powdered Beverage — Small pieces of wire in contents. Investigations proceeding.
- Margarine — Mould on surface within plastic container. Bad storage in shop. Matter dealt with informally.
- Milk Bottle — Foreign body in bottle. Complaint not substantiated.
- Corned Beef — Tin found to contain small piece of metal. Matter taken up with importer.
- Beef Steak Pie — Complaint of foreign body. Analyst reported animal matter with small amount of animal hair adhering. Dealt with informally.
- Pork Luncheon Meat — Mould on meat content. Complainant withdrew and matter dealt with informally.

The Council, in dealing with complaints involving food, were at all times conscious of their responsibility to endeavour in all cases to prevent a recurrence and to take action to effect a change in any practice giving rise to the possibility of genuine complaint.

FOOD PREMISES

The 182 food premises in the Borough were regularly inspected during the year and in cases where refrigeration is used the equipment checked. No complaints were received regarding hygiene at any of the food premises and a reasonably good standard was maintained throughout the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

During the year 97 samples of the various foodstuffs listed were submitted for bacteriological examination and in all cases gave satisfactory results.

| | | | |
|---------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| Milk | 8 | Various meat products | 12 |
| Cream Cheese | 16 | Ice Cream | 6 |
| Cream | 14 | Imported foods, various | 16 |
| Coconut | 1 | (container supplied) | |
| Cheese Spread | 1 | Home brew ingredients | 5 |
| Pies | 6 | Miscellaneous foods | 12 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED/CONDEMNED

| | | | | | | tons | cwts. | lbs. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|------|-------|------|
| Meat at slaughterhouse | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Meat at wholesale premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Meat at retail shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 38 | — |
| Cooked meat and retail products | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Canned meats | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 9 | 27 | — |
| Other canned foods | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 8 | 103 | — |
| Fish (fresh) | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| Fruit and veg. fresh | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Other foods | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 42 | — |
| Frozen foods | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 10 | 4 | — |
| Frozen chicken | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 28 | — |
| Dairy food | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | — | — |
| Total | | | | | | 8 | 14 | 19 |
| Number of prosecutions under Section 2 | | | | | | ... | 1 | ... |
| Number of prosecutions under Section 8 | | | | | | ... | Nil | ... |

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

Number of people holding licences :

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957 | ... | 7 |
| Diseases of Animals (Licensing of Waste Foods Sterilization Plant) Order 1954 | ... | 1 |
| Number of inspections carried out, 1957 Order | ... | 16 |
| Number of infringements found | ... | 6 |

The six infringements found concerned the covering of waste food containers and these were dealt with informally. Reconstruction of one licensed plant was completed during the year and no complaints were received from members of the public regarding any of the plants. Arising from the incidence of swine vesicular disease nationally, all licensees were advised of the importance of strict compliance with the regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Thirty-six visits were made during the year in connection with food poisoning and infectious disease, the majority being to contacts.

DISINFESTATIONS AND DISINFECTIONS

No disinfections were carried out during the year although the department continues to assist in the disposal of contaminated materials. Disinfestations for the eradication of pests were carried out as follows : bugs 4, fleas 8, carpet beetles 20, ants 15, cockroaches 7, other insects 4.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

| | Type of Property | |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| | Non-Agricultural | Agricultural |
| Properties other than Sewers | | |
| Number of properties in district | 8,092 | 33 |
| Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 721 | 1 |
| Number infested by (i) Rats | 584 | 1 |
| (ii) Mice | 11 | 1 |
| Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 466 | 2 |
| Number infested by (i) Rats | 27 | — |
| (ii) Mice | — | — |

Sewers :

Test baiting was carried out during the year at twenty points on the older lengths of foul sewer in the district and results obtained indicated that the sewers tested were free from infestation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION

Amalgamation of the two Public Health Inspectors' Offices resulted in a lesser number of visits being made within the Borough under the Act and Regulations. This situation was regrettable and unavoidable. However, the opportunity was taken to ensure that Building Regulation applications submitted to the local authority in respect of shop premises had at least built-in facilities such as drainage and space to permit a future occupier to comply with the law and avoid the embarrassment of requiring facilities at a later date, i.e., when occupied and the structure complete.

In the main the inspectors engaged on this work tried to avoid visits with a multiple purpose, although it is very difficult to visit a premises for the sole purpose of the "shop" legislation without getting involved in food hygiene, drainage or refuse collection. There were no complaints received during the year from any shop employees or trades unions representing them, and infringements found were of a relatively minor nature and were quickly dealt with.

ACCIDENTS

The few accidents reported were all investigated and the department have no reason to feel that any accidents went unreported. Those investigated showed human error as the main cause.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

PROSECUTIONS

There was no need to resort to legal action at any time during the year.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

| Class of Premises | Number of premises registered during the year | Number of registered premises at end of year | Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year |
|---|---|--|--|
| Offices | 2 | 73 | 24 |
| Retail shops ... | 3 | 111 | 36 |
| Wholesale shops, Warehouses ... | — | 6 | 5 |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | — | 12 | 10 |
| Fuel storage depots | — | 1 | — |
| | 5 | 203 | 75 |

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year 120

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

| Section | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|----|
| 4 | Cleanliness | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 5 | Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 6 | Temperature | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 7 | Ventilation ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| 8 | Lighting ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 9 | Sanitary conveniences | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 10 | Washing facilities ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 11 | Supply of drinking water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 12 | Clothing accommodation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 13 | Sitting facilities ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 14 | Seats (Sedentary Workers) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 15 | Eating facilities ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 16 | Floors, passage and stairs ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| 17 | Fencing exposed parts machinery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 18 | Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 19 | Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 23 | Prohibition of heavy work | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| 24 | First Aid | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| | Other matters | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| | | | | | | Total ... | 20 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

REPORTED ACCIDENTS

| Workplace | Number Reported | | Total No. Investigated | Prosecution | Action Recommended | | No Action |
|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Fatal | Non Fatal | | | Formal Warning | Informal Advice | |
| Offices ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Retail Shops ... | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | 3 | — |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Catering establishments open to public, canteens ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fuel storage depots ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS ... | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | 3 | — |

ANALYSIS OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS

| | Offices | | Retail Shops | Wholesale Warehouses | Catering establishments open to public, canteens | | Fuel storage depots |
|--|---------|---|--------------|----------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Machinery ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Transport ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Falls of persons ... | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Stepping on or striking against object or person ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Handling goods ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Struck by falling object ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fires and explosions ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Electricity ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Use of hand tools ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Not otherwise specified ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no licensed premises within the Borough nor are there any establishments engaged in the slaughter of poultry.

KNACKER'S YARD

The one yard operated satisfactorily during the year and there were no cases of notifiable disease to be dealt with under the Diseases of Animals Act. During the year several permits were issued to the licensee in connection with small quantities of knacker's meat required by a local factory for experimental purposes. The meat in question was properly disposed of after use.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Mention has been made earlier in the report of the oil pollution of the Emm Brook, the principal watercourse in the Borough area. One other watercourse was seriously polluted during the year with a paraffin discharge. Fortunately this was observed and almost one hundred per cent. removed before any pollutant found its way into any main watercourse. Investigations failed to reveal the source but it was thought to be from a domestic oil storage tank.

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of retail premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of other premises licensed for storage including the storage of substance containing petroleum spirit | | | | | | | 13 |
| Number of tests carried out, tanks | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | 8 |
| Number of inspections carried out | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | 42 |
| Number of tests carried out, service pipes | ... | ... | ... | | | | 10 |

A serious spillage involving several thousand gallons took place at one licensed premises during the year. This occurred during major storage tank replacement and the whole of the spillage was retained within the excavations made for the new tanks. The police and fire authority co-operated and the incident was controlled without danger to the public. There were no special problems arising during the year from the enforcement of the Act and Regulations.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Twelve complaints were received during the year concerning smoke and fumes from garden bonfires, and six complaints were made regarding the burning of materials at a scrap metal dealer's. Two complaints concerned fumes from domestic central heating oil-fired boilers. All complaints were dealt with informally.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Dark and black smoke | Number of contraventions recorded | — |
| | (a) successful prosecutions | — |
| | (b) unsuccessful prosecutions | — |
| Furnaces | (a) notifications received | 6 |
| (Section 3) | (b) applications for prior approval | 2 |
| | (c) number of cases in which alterations were required ... | 2 |
| Grit and dust emissions | (a) number of contraventions | — |
| (Section 5) | (b) type of plant involved | — |
| (Section 6) | (a) number of plans submitted | 6 |
| | (b) number of cases in which alterations were required ... | — |
| | (c) number approved | 6 |
| Height of chimneys | (a) number of plans submitted showing new chimneys ... | 2 |
| (Section 10) | (b) number of cases in which alterations were required ... | — |
| | (c) number approved | 2 |
| | (d) number of chimneys erected not complying with approved plans | — |
| | (e) number of chimneys erected outside the control of Section 10 | — |

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

For the third year running the Council co-operated with adjoining local authorities in the monitoring of noise from aircraft. The results obtained showed that there had not been a significant change over the two year period. The noisiest day was 7th July with an N.N.I. level of 38.4, 104 aircraft being recorded, and the average day of the ten day period of monitoring was 35.7 N.N.I. The average day for the previous year was 38.9 and in 1970, 36.7.

Complaints received concerned mainly noisy equipment used by civil engineering contractors and these were dealt with informally. One complaint was dealt with by the Court after service of notice (domestic noise) and a second complaint (commercial equipment) was also dealt with after service of notice.

Wokingham Municipal Borough

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960 — SECTION 1.

| | Industrial | Commercial | Domestic | Total |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Number of nuisances confirmed | — | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Number of nuisances remedied informally | — | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Number of abatement notices under Section 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Number of nuisance orders under Section 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Six-monthly samples of materials were taken for analysis as follows:
Coir Fibre (4 samples) Curled Poultry Feathers
Cotton Felt (2 samples) Feathers & Down (4 samples)
All the samples gave satisfactory results.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One licence was issued under this Act.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Primary Inspections (houses) | 106 |
| Primary Inspections (others) | 98 |
| Revisits re : above | 82 |
| Movable dwellings (sites) | 10 |
| Infectious diseases and disinfection | 36 |
| Places of public entertainment | 10 |
| Offices | 120 |
| Workplaces | 32 |
| Water supplies | 40 |
| Swimming Pools | 62 |
| Watercourses and ditches | 41 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

| | |
|--|-----|
| Drainage (including trade effluents) | 86 |
| Sewage and drainage disposal | 62 |
| Dirty and verminous premises | 8 |
| Insect investigations | 46 |
| Offensive accumulations | 26 |
| Keeping of animals | 10 |
| Fairgrounds | 3 |
| Public conveniences | 8 |
| Household refuse | 48 |
| Flooding | 18 |
| Miscellaneous | 8 |
| (b) HOUSING ACT | |
| Houses (primary inspections) | 28 |
| Revisits re : above | 26 |
| Overcrowding | 3 |
| Miscellaneous (including improvement grants) | 206 |
| (c) FACTORIES ACT | |
| Factories (including powered and non-powered factories) and Building Sites | 28 |
| Outworkers premises | 3 |
| (d) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT | |
| Butchers | 30 |
| Fishmongers and Poulterers | 6 |
| Greengrocers and Fruiterers | 10 |
| Grocers | 28 |
| Confectioners (including flour, cake and sugar) | 4 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Licensed premises | 12 |
| Cafes and restaurants | 32 |
| Canteens | 8 |
| Street food vendors | 20 |
| Milk premises and sampling | 40 |
| Ice Cream premises and sampling | 2 |
| Knacker's yard | 3 |
| Food wholesalers | 26 |
| Food inspection — meat and other foods | 26 |
| Bacteriological sampling of meat and other foods | 97 |
| (e) SHOPS ACT, 1950 | 4 |
| (f) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 | 120 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (g) | RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951 | 3 |
| (h) | CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 | 28 |
| (i) | NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960 | 26 |
| (j) | PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS | 28 |
| (k) | PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951 | 6 |
| (l) | PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 ... | 721 |
| (m) | BETTING, GAMING AND LOTTERIES ACT, 1964 ... | 4 |

Wokingham Municipal Borough

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (2) | Inspec- tions (3) | Number of Written Notices (4) | Occupiers Prosecuted (5) |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 15 | 12 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 60 | 8 | 4 | — |
| (iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises) | 8 | 6 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 83 | 26 | 4 | — |

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars (1) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted (6) |
|--|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred To H.M. Inspector (4) | By H.M. Inspector (5) | |
| Want of cleanliness | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage to floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences : | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 5 | 5 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 13 | 13 | — | — | — |

There were no outworkers in the Borough.

J. B. BOWDEN.

The Rural District of Wokingham

STATISTICS

| | |
|---|------------|
| Area (in acres) | 40,828 |
| Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1973 | 24,244 |
| Rateable Value, 1st April, 1973 | £9,949,526 |
| Estimated Product of a Penny Rate (1973/74) | £95,000 |

| <i>Wokingham Rural District</i> | | | | | <i>England and Wales (Total)</i> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> | | |
| <i>Estimated mid-year home population:</i> | — | — | 84,050 | | 49,028,900 |
| <i>Live births</i> | | | | | |
| Total | 712 | 646 | 1,358 | | 725,405 |
| Legitimate | 684 | 626 | 1,310 | | 662,907 |
| Illegitimate | 28 | 20 | 48 | | 62,498 |
| <i>Stillbirths</i> | | | | | |
| Total | 9 | 11 | 20 | | 8,794 |
| Legitimate | 9 | 10 | 19 | | 7,846 |
| Illegitimate | — | 1 | 1 | | 948 |
| <i>Total live and still births</i> | | | | | |
| Total | 721 | 657 | 1,378 | | 734,199 |
| Legitimate | 693 | 636 | 1,329 | | 670,753 |
| Illegitimate | 28 | 21 | 49 | | 63,446 |
| <i>Deaths of Infants</i> | | | | | |
| under 1 year of age | | | | | |
| Total | 5 | 7 | 12 | | 12,494 |
| Legitimate | 5 | 7 | 12 | | 11,177 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — | | 1,317 |
| under 4 weeks of age | | | | | |
| Total | 2 | 6 | 8 | | 8,373 |
| Legitimate | 2 | 6 | 8 | | 7,503 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — | | 870 |
| under 1 week of age | | | | | |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 7,142 |
| Legitimate | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 6,365 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — | | 777 |
| <i>Deaths — all ages</i> | 316 | 275 | 591 | | 591,907 |
| <i>Live birth rates, etc. :</i> | | | | <i>Wokingham Rural District</i> | <i>England and Wales</i> |
| Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) | | | 16.2 | | 14.8 |
| Area comparability factor | | | .91 | | 1.00 |
| Local adjusted rate | | | 14.7 | | 14.8 |
| Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate | | | 1.00 | | 1.00 |
| Illegitimate livebirths as percentage of all live births | | | 4 | | 9 |

The Rural District of Wokingham

Stillbirth rate

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births | 15 | 12 |
|---|----|----|

Infant mortality rates

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births ... | 9 | 17 |
| Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births | 9 | 17 |
| Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... | — | 21 |

Neonatal mortality rate

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births | 6 | 12 |
|--|---|----|

Early neonatal mortality rate

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births | 3 | 10 |
|---|---|----|

Perinatal mortality rate

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births ... | 17 | 22 |
|---|----|----|

Death rates, etc. — all ages

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) | 7.0 | 12.1 |
| Area comparability factor | 1.37 | 1.00 |
| Local adjusted rate | 9.6 | 12.1 |
| Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate | .79 | 1.00 |

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis)

| Disease | 1972 | 1971 | 1970 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Measles | 57 | 427 | 227 |
| Dysentery | — | 5 | 4 |
| Scarlet fever | 14 | 12 | 17 |
| Whooping cough | 2 | 57 | 4 |
| Acute meningitis | 2 | — | 1 |
| Food poisoning | 8 | 6 | 11 |
| Infective jaundice | 2 | 13 | 7 |
| Acute encephalitis (post infectious) | 1 | — | — |

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

| Age Group | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | |
|----------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F |
| 25 — 34 years | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35 — 44 years | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45 — 54 years | — | 1 | — | — |
| 55 — 64 years | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Total (All ages) ... | 2 | 3 | — | — |

The Rural District of Wokingham

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS :

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Re-inforcing Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS :

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Primary Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Re-inforcing Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 285 |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

MEASLES :

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Primary Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 820 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

RUBELLA :

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Primary Injections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

POLIOMYELITIS :

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Primary Immunisations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Re-inforcing Immunisations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 277 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

TUBERCULOSIS :

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| B.C.G. Immunisation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,288 |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

The Rural District of Wokingham

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT 1972

[illegible]

The Rural District of Wokingham

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT 1972

| Cause of Death | Total All Ages | Age in years | | | | | | | | | | 75 & over |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| | | 4 wks. & Under 4 Wks. | 1 yr. | 1-4 | 5-14 | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 3 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Other diseases, genito-urinary system | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Diseases of musculo-skeletal system | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Congenital anomalies | 8 | 5 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Symptoms and ill defined conditions | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 11 | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| All other accidents | 12 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 7 |
| Suicide and self-inflicted injuries | 5 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| All other external causes | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total All Causes | 591 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 42 | 95 | 135 | 277 |

The Rural District of Wokingham

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER TO THE COUNCIL

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During 1972 the Sewage Disposal Works at Marsh Farm, Woodley, were provided with mechanical screens at the inlets, so dispensing with the necessity for manual cleansing.

Detail plans for the Stage I and also Stage II improvements of Wargrave Sewage Disposal Works, by reason of the decision of Wokingham Borough Council to participate in the scheme, have been largely completed during the year and the commencement of this major contract is anticipated in mid-1973. Design work is also in progress for the associated rising mains and sewer diversions which will result in the abandonment of the Works at Sonning and eventually at Marsh Farm.

During the year the main drainage scheme for Hare Hatch/Knowl Hill area has been completed and the main drainage scheme for the Finchampstead area has been commenced. The latter is expected to be completed by mid-1973, enabling 176 properties to connect.

Design work is well advanced for the main drainage of Hurst which will provide sewerage facilities for 296 properties together with improvements to the surface water drainage of the area. Design work is also being carried out for foul sewerage improvements in the Sandford Manor, Woodley, School Road, Arborfield, and Henley Wood Road, Earley, areas and for surface water sewerage at Arborfield, Palmerstone Road, Earley and Austin Road, Woodley.

Contract documents are in preparation for the major scheme of surface water drainage for the Wokingham Road and Beech Lane areas of Woodley and Earley, which is expected to be commenced in the Spring.

The contracts for the improvement of surface water drainage at Swallowfield and Shinfield have been completed during the year and arrangements are in hand for the extension of the scheme at Swallowfield.

HOUSING

During 1972 work continued on the erection of 91 houses at Gorse Ride Phase II, Pennfields Phase I and Hillcrest and completion of these contracts is expected in Spring 1973. Modernisation of houses at Victoria Road, Wargrave was completed in the autumn and the modernisation programme continued with the commencement of work at Hurst Road, Twyford and Tippings Lane, Woodley in November.

Tenders have been invited for the modernisation of 25 houses at Church Lane, The Village and Reading Road, Finchampstead.

The Rural District of Wokingham

In October contracts commenced at Beech Lane, Earley and Pennfields Phase II for 4 houses and 8 bungalows and 12 flats respectively, both of which are due for completion in the Spring.

Following the success of the nominal deposit scheme at Gorse Ride North, design has been proceeding on a further 52 dwellings at Gorse Ride Phase III, due to commence early in 1973, together with a scheme of 20 bungalows at Woodside Close, Barkham.

WET AND DRY SCAVENGING

As from the 1st April, 1972, responsibility for scavenging and transport functions (refuse collection, cesspool emptying, street cleansing and transport maintenance) was transferred to my Department.

In order to maintain continuity I present the statistics in similar form to previous years.

WET SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION

Work carried out compared with previous year :

| | | 1971 | 1972 |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| No. of vehicle hours worked | ... | 7,974 | 6,938 |
| No. of miles travelled | | 57,626 | 61,151 |
| No. of gallons of fuel used | | 8,589 | 8,964 |
| No. of cesspools emptied | | 8,241 | 8,016 |
| No. of properties involved | | 6,962 | 6,935 |
| Total hose used (ft.) | | 980,455 | 944,923 |
| Sewage disposed of (gals.) | | 12,531,725 | 12,029,150 |

The cesspool emptying service was maintained to give six free emptyings per annum to those properties not served by main drainage. The number of properties served by cesspools/septic tanks as at 30.9.72, was 2,553.

Certain delays were inevitable in dealing with the demand for additional rechargeable emptyings, as the vehicles available to this service were very fully committed.

After an initial trial the tankering of sludge from Marsh Farm to Wargrave S.D. Works using the larger capacity vehicle was deferred pending the introduction of a productivity bonus scheme for the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal section.

The Council decided to retain the present fleet of four vehicles on this service so that when existing heavy demand in Reading Road, Finchampstead is reduced as properties are connected to the sewer, additional emptyings can be made in the Parish of Hurst.

The Rural District of Wokingham

(b) DISPOSAL

The following table shows the amount of cesspool sewage, in gallons, disposed of at the various sites in the district, compared with the previous year :

| Site | 1971 | 1972 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Gipsy Lane, Earley | 558,480 | 556,125 |
| Colemansmoor Road, Woodley ... | 3,631,800 | 494,250 |
| Winnersh Farm | 102,850 | 11,100 |
| Other sites | 341,750 | 130,750 |
| <i>Into sewer manholes at —</i> | | |
| Wargrave, Loddon | 2,377,420 | 4,572,625 |
| Hyde End Road, Shinfield ... | 845,875 | 87,750 |
| Arborfield Sewage Works ... | 4,767,650 | 6,176,550 |
| | 12,625,825 | 12,029,150 |

(c) CONNECTIONS TO MAIN DRAINAGE

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Wokingham Without | 2 |
| Finchampstead | 27 |
| Swallowfield | 2 |
| Wargrave | 69 |
| Woodley | 4 |
| Shinfield | 2 |
| Charvil | 2 |
| Sonning | 1 |
| Twyford | 1 |
| Winnersh | 1 |
| Earley | 1 |
| Total | 112 |

DRY SCAVENGING

(a) COLLECTION

The collection of refuse is uniform throughout the district. Refuse is collected weekly, the bin collected from the premises and the empty bin returned to the boundary of the property.

In addition the Council collects household effects free of charge on request and bulky items by arrangement.

Obsolete cars are removed free of charge provided the log book is surrendered.

Containers are hired individually and on a contract basis in order to provide an efficient service to the general public, designed to avoid dumping of rubbish.

The Rural District of Wokingham

To further strengthen this service the Council have decided to site containers for limited periods in the more densely populated areas so that residents can themselves dispose of garden refuse etc.

Despite the facilities available there is continued indiscriminate dumping of rubbish through the district.

The following is a summary of work carried out by refuse collection vehicles, container carrying lorries, and tippers which are used on occasions to deal with bulky refuse.

| | 1971 | 1972 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total working time (hours) ... | 25,402 | 28,244 |
| Miles travelled | 119,835 | 147,106 |
| Fuel used (gals.) | 25,330 | 27,863 |
| Total oil used (pints) | 11,506 | 12,502 |
| Total refuse collected | | |
| (cubic yards) | 248,004 | 264,501 |
| M.P.G. (refuse vehicles only) ... | 4.73 | 5.28 |
| Refuse dealt with per gal. fuel used | | |
| (c. yds.), refuse vehicles only ... | 9.57 | 9.49 |

(b) DISPOSAL

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites, in use throughout the year, the bulk at the Woodley tip. Certain areas of land were reclaimed and seeded and a limited amount of treeplanting undertaken.

Weekend reception facilities continued to be made available to ratepayers at the Woodley tip.

The practice of breaking and selling scrap cars continued and £638 was received from the disposal of scrap metal. In all, 332 cars were broken up of which 207 were brought in by the Council's container vehicles. The charges collected at the tip for disposal of non-domestic refuse etc. amounted to £1,020.

The income from the hire and emptying of containers under contract was £6,794 and in addition £916 was received from individual hire of open containers.

D. J. RICHARDS.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING OFFICER

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Planning Applications | 2075 |
| Proposals requiring approval under Building Regulations only | |
| (Permitted Development) | 870 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 2945 |
| | <hr/> |
| 1971 Total | 2249 |

The Rural District of Wokingham

PRIVATE BUILDING:

The number of houses completed in 1972 or under construction on 31st December, 1972, is as follows :

| <i>Completed</i> | | | <i>Completed</i> | | |
|------------------|-----|----|-------------------|-----|-----|
| Arborfield | ... | 16 | Shinfield | ... | 37 |
| Barkham | ... | 14 | Sonning | ... | 1 |
| Charvil | ... | 5 | Swallowfield | ... | 9 |
| Earley | ... | 72 | Twyford | ... | 11 |
| Finchampstead | ... | 59 | Wargrave | ... | 55 |
| Hurst | ... | 1 | Winnersh | ... | 18 |
| Remenham | ... | — | Wokingham Without | | 68 |
| Ruscombe | ... | 1 | Woodley | ... | 254 |

| | | | |
|------|---------------|-------|-----|
| 1972 | Completed | Total | 621 |
| | Under Constr. | Total | 793 |
| | (Dec. 1972) | | |
| 1971 | Completed | Total | 572 |
| | Under Constr. | Total | 386 |
| | (Dec. 1971) | | |

LOCAL AUTHORITY BUILDINGS

| | | | |
|------|---------------|-------|-----|
| 1972 | Completed | Total | 43 |
| | Under Constr. | Total | 72 |
| | (Dec. 72) | | |
| 1971 | Completed | Total | 9 |
| | Under Constr. | Total | Nil |
| | (Dec. 71) | | |

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

| | | | |
|------|---------------|-------|-----|
| 1972 | Completed | Total | Nil |
| | Under Constr. | Total | 43 |
| 1971 | Completed | Total | 24 |
| | Under Constr. | Total | Nil |
| | (Dec. 71) | | |

R. E. REYNOLDS.

The Rural District of Wokingham

REPORT OF THE HOUSING MANAGER

The total of 36 dwellings at Ruscombe were taken over, and 20 dwellings each at Barkham and Arborfield were well advanced. In addition, 12 dwellings at Earley have been planned.

The total number of properties under management was as follows :

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Arborfield | ... | ... | ... | 99 |
| Barkham | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Charvil | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Earley | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| Finchampstead | ... | ... | ... | 241 |
| Hurst | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Remenham | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Ruscombe | ... | ... | ... | 144 |
| Shinfield | ... | ... | ... | 408 |
| Sonning | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| Swallowfield | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| Twyford | ... | ... | ... | 160 |
| Wargrave | ... | ... | ... | 162 |
| Winnersh | ... | ... | ... | 280 |
| Wokingham Without | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| Woodley | ... | ... | ... | 479 |
| Total | | | | 2,395 |

CARAVAN SITES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| California, Finchampstead | ... | ... | ... | 83 plots |
| Grovelands Avenue, Winnersh | ... | ... | ... | 68 plots |
| Total | | | | 151 plots |

The housing waiting list now stands at 727, made up as follows :

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Ordinary list | ... | ... | 517 |
| Aged persons list | ... | ... | 167 |
| Single persons list | ... | ... | 43 |
| Total | | | 727 |

R. J. WATTS.

The Rural District of Wokingham

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mention has been made earlier of the changes in responsibility that were effected during the year in the Council's Management Structure. The Joint Public Health Inspectors' office for the two authorities was established in the Rural District Council Offices at Shute End, with a Public Health enquiry office being maintained at the Municipal Offices of the Borough. No real difficulties arose from this arrangement and members of the public were not inconvenienced. For the first three months or so after the setting up of the joint arrangement the public continued to contact on matters transferred, particularly on the subject of cesspool emptying, but administrative arrangements were made to accommodate this. The easiest new function to accommodate in the joint arrangements was the one with the least public participation, i.e., Petroleum Acts and Regulations. Quickly within the remainder of the year all licensed premises were inspected, licences renewed and electrical certificates asked for and, in the majority of cases, obtained without undue delay. Another function accommodated was that of the technical aspect of improvement grants and this was absorbed as part of the ordinary survey work carried out under the Housing Acts. An interesting aspect of this work was the different ways in which each of the two separate local authorities exercised their discretion in dealing with discretionary improvement grant applications and, in particular, the applications for extra space for kitchen or sleeping purposes. Initially I found it difficult to appreciate why the differences existed and, accepting them, how to maintain working standards which were equitable to the applicants. It quickly became clear that the differences taken as a whole balanced themselves out so that an applicant for a grant in respect of a property within the Borough area obtained ultimately much the same deal in financial terms as his counterpart in the Rural area.

On the basis of six months' work in the district I am convinced that the most important environmental problem of the area in the future will arise from urbanisation and its direct effect on the intensifying farming activities and, in particular, poultry and pig-keeping. There is evidence now of how intensification is resulting in ever increasing quantities of effluent, solid and liquid, and an ever decreasing area of land upon which it can be suitably disposed. This is, in my view, an important matter and one requiring major policy decisions by the new Local Authority when it takes over the area in 1974.

WATER SUPPLY

Ten samples of water were submitted for analysis, six of which were taken from newly constructed wells and four arising from complaints. All were satisfactory. Twice in the latter part of the year numerous complaints were received concerning cloudy water supplied by the

The Rural District of Wokingham

statutory undertaking. The first arose indirectly from the fact that water levels in the bore holes were low and additional chlorine added as a safety factor gave rise to the cloudy effect which was only visible when the water was newly drawn from the mains. The second occasion was apparently due to disturbances of water flow as a result of repairs to mains.

SWIMMING POOLS

Chlorine continues to be the sterilising agent in general use at school pools and it was decided during the year to make chlorine content checks by comparator on the spot rather than to take samples and await their result. The condition of the water in smaller pools tends to change rapidly and the use of the comparator enables advice to be given at the time and on the conditions prevailing, particularly load conditions.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND FOOD HYGIENE
REGULATIONS**

INSPECTIONS.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Milk Delivery Vehicles | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops | ... | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 224 |
| Butchers' Shops | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 280 |
| Wet Fish Shops | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Canteen and Catering Establishments | | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 192 |
| Confectioners' Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| Grocers' and General Provision Shops | | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 730 |
| Hotels and Licensed Premises | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Stalls and other vehicles | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 86 |
| Ice Cream Shops | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Fruiterers' and Greengrocers' Shops | ... | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 160 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 192 |

UNSOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year :
14 lbs. English Rabbit; 108 lbs. Corned Beef; 28 lbs. Turkey;
27 lbs. Pork; 209 lbs. Chicken; 73 lbs. Ham; 20 lbs. Liver;
128 lbs. Bacon; 35 lbs. Melts; 74 lbs. Irish Beef; 60 lbs. Steak;
5,201 packets frozen foodstuffs (refrigerator breakdown); 1,571
tins of various foodstuffs.

The number of complaints received regarding unsound food totalled 22 — a reduction of 16 compared with the previous year.

The Rural District of Wokingham

Seven of these complaints were reported to the Committee. In two cases successful legal proceedings were instituted and in the remaining five cases warning letters were sent to the retailers and the wholesalers concerned.

It will be noted that refrigeration breakdowns in plants at supermarkets accounted for a considerable amount of condemned foodstuffs. These breakdowns appear to be slightly less frequent than in previous years and it is felt that the latest refrigeration equipment may be proving more efficient.

SECTION 16

Three applications for registration of premises for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were received and granted during the year.

POULTRY INSPECTION.

The one establishment engaged in slaughtering poultry specifically for Pakistani residents continued to function during the year and approximately 2,000 birds were dealt with weekly. As far as was possible a weekly visit was made.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The number of persons holding licences under the above order at the end of the year was 16, a decrease of one, and the number holding licences under the 1954 Order was 7 — no change during the year. The total number of inspections carried out was 91 and no infringements were found. Apart from the inspections it was thought prudent, during the year, to write personally to each licensee drawing his attention to the regulations and in particular to emphasize the importance of thoroughly boiling and keeping boiled from unboiled swill. The Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food co-operated in the field work as in previous years.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

One renewal application for a slaughterhouse licence was issued during the year under review.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One application was received and a licence issued.

The Rural District of Wokingham

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Twelve licences were issued during the year, in respect of six premises for both cats and dogs, three for dogs only and three for cats only. The total number of animals covered by these licences was 222 dogs and 261 cats. The general condition of all the premises was good throughout the year and 48 inspections were carried out.

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

The following shows the action taken during the year under the above programme :

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of properties represented as unfit for human habitation during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| (2) Number of houses demolished not in Clearance Areas as a result of formal procedure under Sections 16 or 17 | | | | | |
| (1) Housing Act, 1957 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (3) Number of unfit houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1), and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 | | | | | |
| Housing Act, 1961 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Number of persons displaced | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of families | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (4) Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied: | | | | | |
| After informal notice by Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |

HOUSING ACT 1964 (Part II).

Compulsory improvement of dwellings :

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of representations received | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects :

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 652 |
| Re-inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 328 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

HOUSING ACT, 1969 — SECTIONS 44-49

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of applications received for Qualification | | | | | | |
| Certificates | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of Qualification Certificates issued | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Number of Qualification Certificates refused | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Number of Applications withdrawn | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Number of applications outstanding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Number of inspections and re-inspections made under the above sections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 98 |

The Rural District of Wokingham

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

| | |
|--|---------|
| Number of applications for improvement grants ... | 65 |
| Number of applications approved — improvement or conversion | 63 |
| Number of applications for standard grants | 1 |
| Number of applications approved for standard grants | 1 |
| Total sum in grants paid during the year ... | £42,267 |

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The position regarding the number of caravans in the district is substantially the same as in the previous year, although the actual number is not known.

During the year under review 28 applications were considered, of which 10 were refused and 18 granted for limited periods.

The Council's sites, 83 at Finchampstead and 68 at Winnersh, have a waiting list of approximately 40 applicants.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Six notices of intention to install furnaces were received under the Act. All these were at domestic premises. Complaints received by the department concerned either garden bonfire pollution or fumes from inefficient central heating systems and all these were dealt with on an informal basis.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1953

Licences for Public Singing and Music :

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Number of licences issued ... | 17 |
| Number of inspections made | 32 |

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of retail premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit | 95 |
| Number of other premises licensed for storage ... | 1 |
| Number of tests carried out, tanks and petrol lines | 6 |
| Number of inspections carried out | 86 |

All licensed premises were required during the year to supply the authority with a certificate as to the electrical safety of the installation and every licensee was given a new copy of the Conditions of Licence.

The Rural District of Wokingham

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of this Act.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

The number dealers now registered under the above Act is 15.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE :

| Class of Workplace | No. of Persons Employed |
|---|-------------------------|
| Offices | 1,052 |
| Retail Shops | 662 |
| Wholesale Departments, Warehouses | 123 |
| Catering Establishments open to the public | 92 |
| Canteens | 25 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | 3 |
| | 1,957 |
| | Males ... 920 |
| | Females ... 1,037 |

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS :

| Class of Premises | No. of premises registered during year | Total No. of registered premises at end of year | No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year |
|--|--|---|---|
| Offices | 2 | 68 | 11 |
| Retail Shops | 1 | 128 | 43 |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Catering Establishments, open to the Public, Canteens | 1 | 12 | 4 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | — | 2 | — |
| Totals ... | 5 | 213 | 59 |

The Rural District of Wokingham

PEST CONTROL

No. of complaints received :

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rat infestation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 579 |
| Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 138 |
| Other pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 411 |

No. of properties found infested with :

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rats | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 745 |
| Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 196 |
| Other pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 395 |

No. of treatments carried over from previous year ... 22

No. of properties treated for :

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rat infestation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 761 |
| Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 201 |
| Other pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 384 |

No. of infested properties where advice has been given ... 35

No. of inspections for all purposes ... 3,156

No. of re-inspections carried out ... 1,458

No. of new contracts taken up 7 Value £130

No. of existing contracts renewed 70 Value £1,119

No. of contracts lost 9 Value £94

The contracts lost were due to there being no further infestation.

SUMMARY OF OTHER INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Inspections under the Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | 642 |
| Re-inspections | ... | ... | ... | 286 |
| Movable dwellings | ... | ... | ... | 216 |
| Drainage | ... | ... | ... | 328 |
| Verminous houses | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| Disinfestations | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| Licensed houses | ... | ... | ... | 98 |
| Nursing Homes | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Pigsties and poultry runs | ... | ... | ... | 78 |
| Hairdressers and Barbers | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Infectious disease | ... | ... | ... | 81 |
| Refuse collection and disposal | ... | ... | ... | 262 |
| Housing Acts, Unfitness, Improvement | ... | ... | ... | 686 |

The Rural District of Wokingham

Nature and number of complaints dealt with during the year :

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Defective drainage systems ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Unwholesome food ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| Housing defects ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Air pollution ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Noise ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Pollution of ditches ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Unauthorised caravans ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Overflowing cesspools ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Flooding ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Accumulations — rubbish, etc. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| Animals improperly kept ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Defective and insufficient sanitary accommodation ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Insects ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Water supply ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Dutch Elm Disease ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors :

| Premises | Number on Register | Inspections | Number of Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... | 5 | 4 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... | 119 | 72 | — | — |
| (iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises) | — | — | — | — |
| Total ... | 124 | 76 | — | — |

The Rural District of Wokingham

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which Defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | Referred By H.M. Inspector | |
| Sanitary Conveniences: Unsuitable or defective | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

| Nature of Work | No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Section 133(1)(c) | Section 133 | | | Section 134 | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| | | No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council | No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists | No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome premises | Notices Served | Prosecutions |
| Wearing apparel: Making etc. | 9 | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 9 | — | — | — | — | — |

J. B. BOWDEN

